

Audio Transcript, Stop 8: Across Place

Welcome. My name is Jesse Bowman, and I'm the associate law librarian for technology initiatives and instruction. To me, NLaw means a place where brilliant people from a wide array of backgrounds come together to learn from one another and train to impact society and the legal profession.

You're standing in the Rubloff building, just outside of the Pritzker Legal Research Center, the library of the law school.

The Pritzker Legal Research Center means different things to different members of our law school community. For some, it is a provider of books and electronic research materials, for others it is a place to receive research help from library staff, to collaborate with classmates for study and quiet reflection, or to take in a great view of Lake Michigan.

Regardless, all members of the law school community are welcome and encouraged to visit.

As you look around, you will notice natural light coming from the skylight above the atrium. You also see what used to be the exterior wall of the E.H. Gary Library building. The Arthur Rubloff building opened in 1984 to provide additional space for the growing community of NLaw. Chicago based architecture firm, Holabird & Root designed the 1956 McCormick Hall, the 1984 Rubloff Building, and the 2014 Rubloff Atrium expansion between the two.

It's no mistake that NLaw worked with a Chicago based architectural firm, as Northwestern's community celebrates its connection to the city.

When the school needed more room to accommodate its growing student body in the early 1920s, officials debated whether the law school should be located within the main university in Evanston before ultimately choosing the present day location on the North Side.

Being in Chicago allowed the institution to strengthen its ties to the professional legal community. A 1920s publication notes that the Chicago location allows students to be, "weaned from the distractions of carefree college activities and begin to realize that they are apprentices bound to a professional career."

Consider your own perceptions of professionalism and how they might be influenced by your surroundings, such as the environment of Northwestern Pritzker School of Law.

Today, the NLaw community maintains its strong ties to the city. This section of the school features artwork from local artists. Behind you, you'll notice pieces by Chicago artists Edra Soto and Stephanie Santana.

Both Soto and Santana have titled their pieces to reference the idea of home. Recall the artwork from the first stop of this tour, depicting another living room scene.

While you take a closer look at the artwork of this tour stop, ask yourself how might the impact of local architects and artists contribute to a sense of connection between the NLaw community and the surrounding city it calls home?

Consider the idea that the law school is a microcosm of the city it inhabits. How do Northwestern and Chicago mirror and diverge from one another?

Before navigating to core stop number nine, consider stopping to visit the sponsored stops of the Latinx Law Students Association and the Veteran Law Association.

To reach the next stop on the tour, return to the elevator on the northeast side of this hallway. Make your way across the atrium towards Strawn Hall in the southwest corner of the McCormick building. Please do not enter the classroom of the monitor outside as read. That indicates that class is in session. If the monitor is green, you may proceed into the classroom.